

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 04415 270108 Z

70-S-60

ACTION SS-25

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R 261900 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4110

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USDEL SALT TWO

S E C R E T BONN 4415

EXDIS

LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: PARM, GW

SUBJECT: SALT, MBFR AND FBS

1. FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH TELLS US THAT MARCH 20 CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH FCO AND DEFENSE MINISTRY REPS DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE CONSENSUS BETWEEN FRG AND UK THAT THE SOVIETS WILL PUSH THE FBS ISSUE HARD IN SALT- TWO IN AN EFFORT TO SECURE SOME " BONUS FROM THE U. S. ON NON FBS ISSUES. GIVEN FIRM NEGATIVE U. S. POSITION TO DATE, ROTH SAID THE UK AND FRG THINK THE SOVIETS DO NOT EXPECT AGREEMENT IN SALT- TWO FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FBS IN EUROPE; RATHER SOVIETS ARE SEEKING TO TRADE OFF FBS ISSUE FOR OTHER SALT CONCESSIONS BY U. S.

2. BOTH THE BRITISH, AND THE FRENCH IN MARCH 20 TALKS WITH RUTH IN PARIS, APPLIED THE SAME " BONUS" ANALYSIS TO THE SOVIET APPROACH TO BRITISH AND FRENCH NUCLEAR SYSTEMS. ROTH SAID THE UK, FRG AND FRENCH REPS ALL WELCOMED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE CURRENT US THINKING CENTERING ON NON- CIRCUMVENTION APPROACH.

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3. WHILE SHARING THE ANGLO- GERMAN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENTLY FIRM US APPROACH TO FBS, ROTH SAID THE FRENCH TOLD RUTH THEY WERE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT THE U. S. WISH FOR " EQUALITY" MIGHT PUT THE U. S. IN A DEMANDEUR POSITION VIS- A- VIS THE SOVIETS IN SALT- TWO; THAT THIS COULD FORCE THE U. S. TO BARGIN AWAY ITS POSITION ON FBS AT A LATER POINT IN SALT- TWO.

4. ROTH SAID THE FRG DID NOT AGREE WITH THE FRENCH, BEEN A CONSTANT PRACTICE SINCE LORD ISMAY'S DAY. THEIR FEELING IS THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO MODIFY THIS PRECEDENT AND THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD NOT HAVE ARisen HAD THERE NOT BEEN THE DIFFICULTY IN INTERPRETING ARTICLE 41 OF THE PERSONNEL REGULATIONS.

UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, ALL MY COLLEAGUES HAVE DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO INFORM YOU THAT PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE ABOVE CITED ARTICLE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS CONFIRMING THE EXISTING PRACTICE. UNQUOTE. RUMSFELD

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS, LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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